

Message Text

SECRET

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ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 IO-13 ISO-00 SS-15 SP-02 NSCE-00 PM-05
INR-10 INRE-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 NEAE-00 L-03 SSM-03
SSO-00 CCO-00 EUR-12 /074 W
-----074031 211902Z /72

Z O 211824Z MAR 78
FM AMCONSUL JERUSALEM
TO SECSTATE WASHDC FLASH 0568
INFO AMEMBASSY AMMAN
AMEMBASSY BEIRUT IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY CAIRO
AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV IMMEDIATE
USMISSION USUN NEW YORK IMMEDIATE

S E C R E T JERUSALEM 0820

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PORG, UNSC, MARR, LE, IS, XF
SUBJECT: SIILASVUO'S TALK WITH LEBANESE

SUMMARY: SIILASVUO HAD A "GOOD TALK" WITH BOUTROS AND
KHOURY. LEBANESE AGREE ADF SHOULD GO TO LITANI; SYRIANS
HOLD KEY TO PLO BEHAVIOR AND BOUTROS REQUESTS
SIILASVUO ALSO APPROACH DAMASCUS; UN SHOULD CONTROL BRIDGES
AND OTHER KEY POINTS; LEBANESE WILL PROVIDE THREE BATTALIONS
AND POLICE TO ASSIST UNIFIL; GOL WILLING HAVE UN ENTER
SOUTHERN LEBANON ASAP; LEBANESE WILLING MEET IDF MARCH 22
ON RETURN OF REFUGEES TO SOUTH. SIILASVUO INFORMED MARCH 21 BY
WEIZMAN OF OFFER TO PERMIT UN TO DEPLOY TO FIVE SITES, AND
FORMER PREPARED MOVE PROMPTLY. WEIZMAN ALSO INFORMED UN
UNILATERAL CEASEFIRE BEING DECLARED 1800 LOCAL.
SIILASVUO PASSING MESSAGE TO PLO WITH
EXPECTATION PLO WILL OBSERVE CEASEFIRE AS WELL. END
SUMMARY.

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1. SAW SIILASVUO 1800 MARCH 21 JUST AFTER HIS RETURN
FROM BEIRUT. HE HAD GOOD TALK WITH FONMIN BOUTROS AND
COS KHOURY. BOTH WERE ENTHUSIASTIC OVER SUGGESTION
ADF ADVANE TO LITANI. BOUTROS OBSERVED "SYRIANS
HOLD THE KEY." HE SAID PM HOSS WOULD TRY TO OBTAIN
SYRIAN CONCURRENCE BUT URGED SIILASVUO TO REINFORCE
LEBANESE REQUEST IN DAMASCUS. (SIILASVUO THINKS THIS IS A GOOD

IDEA AND IS REQUESTING WALDHEIM'S AUTHORIZATION TO GO TO DAMASCUS.)

2. BOUTROS AGREES UN SHOULD CONTROL BRIDGES AND OTHER KEY POINTS. HE SAID LEBANESE ARMY WILL PROVIDE THREE HAND-PICKED BATTALIONS OF LOYAL TROOPS PLUS OTHER ELEMENTS TO ASSIST UNIFIL. WILL ALSO PROVIDE POLICE UNITS. GOL WILLING TO HAVE UN ENTER THE AREA ASAP. ON REFUGEE QUESTION (PARA FIVE JERUSALEM 802), COL. HANNI ABBAS PREPARED GO TO NAQUORA MARCH 22 TO MEET WITH IDF ON MODALITIES FOR RETURN OF REFUGEES. UN TRYING TO SET UP MEETING.

3. WEIZMAN TELEPHONED SIILASVUO SHORTLY BEFORE I SAW HIM TO SAY ISRAEL DECLARING UNILATERAL CEASEFIRE AS OF 1800 HOURS LOCAL. AT HIS REQUEST, SIILASVUO DICATED TELEGRAM TO ILMAC IN BEIRUT INSTRUCTING CHAIRMAN TO INFORM PLO IMMEDIATELY AND CONVEY EXPECTATION OTHERS WILL ALSO OBSERVE THE CEASEFIRE.

4. I ASKED SIILASVUO HOW SOON ADVANCE ELEMENTS OF UNIFIL COULD ENTER SOUTHERN LEBANON. HE SAID AUSTRIAN AND SWEDISH COMPANIES WERE READY TO GO BUT POLITICAL PROBLEMS HAD BEEN ENCOUNTERED IN STOCKHOLM AND VIENNA. HOWEVER HE HAD GREEN LIGHT FROM TEHRAN AND HE WAS URGENTLY PREPARING IRANIAN COMPANY FROM UNDOF FOR DEPLOYMENT
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WITHIN 24 HOURS. AS FOR ADDITIONAL OBSERVERS, HE HAD DECIDED IT UNWISE TO SEND UNARMED UNTSO PERSONNEL INTO AREA WHERE THERE APT TO BE OCCASIONAL BREACHES OF CEASEFIRE.

5. AFTER RECEIPT BEIRUT 1525, AND TELECON WITH VELIOTES, DRAPER, AND LORENZ, I TELEPHONED SIILASVUO TO AGAIN URGE DEPLOYMENT OF UNIFIL AS SOON AS POSSIBLE. I SAID WE ALSO THOUGHT IT WOULD BE A GOOD IDEA FOR HIM TO WEIGH IN WITH DAMASCUS. I ALSO QUERIED HIM ON WEIZMAN'S CURRENT POSITION RE ADF ADVANCE TO LITANI. SIILASVUO SAID WEIZMAN WAS FAVORABLE AND PREPARED TO RECOMMEND THIS TO THE CABINET PROVIDED HE GOT WORD FROM SYRIA IT WOULD PREVENT HOSTILE ACTION FROM NORTHERN SIDE OF RIVER. WEIZMAN NOW WILLING TO HAVE UNIFIL ENTER LEBANON FROM THE SOUTH.

6. COMMENT: SINCE IDF HAS STOPPED ABOUT THREE KILOMETERS SHORT OF LITANI, I BELIEVE SIILASVUO IS READY TO BEGIN DEPLOYMENT OF ADVANCE ELEMENTS OF UNIFIL PROVIDED CEASE-FIRE IS OBSERVED BY PLO.
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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 jan 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: MILITARY PERSONNEL, DIPLOMATIC DISCUSSIONS, INTERNATIONAL PEACEKEEPING FORCES, FOREIGN INTEREST REPRESENTATION, MILITARY PLANS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 21 mar 1978
Decaption Date: 01 jan 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 20 Mar 2014
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1978JERUSA00820
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D780124-0884
Format: TEL
From: JERUSALEM
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1978/newtext/t19780344/aaaabknz.tel
Line Count: 116
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: dad560c3-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION NEA
Original Classification: SECRET
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: SECRET
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 29 mar 2005
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 3258865
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: SIILASVUO'S TALK WITH LEBANESE SUMMARY: SIILASVUO HAD A "GOOD TALK" WITH BOUTROS AND KHOURY. LEBANESE AGREE ADF SHOULD GO TO LITANI; SY
TAGS: PORG, MARR, LE, IS, XF, SY, UNSC, (SIILASVUO, ENSIO)
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odb://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/dad560c3-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Sheryl P. Walter
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
20 Mar 2014
Markings: Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014

